



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 27, 2022 | **Sanctuary Service**

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“Come, O Precious Ransom”
arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and announcements

Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

Lighting the candle of hope

Advent introit

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Chancel Choir

Of the Father’s love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the Source, the Ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

*text by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413 and Henry Baker, 1859; music is Plainsong, 12th century,
arr. Charles Douglas, 1916, DIVINUM MYSTERIUM*

* Call to worship

taken from Isaiah 40 and Psalm 33:20-22

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to
Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been
completed, that her sin has been paid for.

**All: “And the glory of the LORD will be revealed and all mankind
together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”**

Leader: We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

**All: In him our hearts rejoice for we trust in his holy name. May your
unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in
you.**

* Hymn of praise

“The Advent of Our God”

The advent of our God with eager prayers we greet;
with humble hearts we shall go forth, God’s glorious gift to meet.

The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,
himself a servant’s form puts on to set all people free.

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever One, through all eternity.

text by Charles Coffin, ST. THOMAS

* Prayer of adoration

Advent affirmation

Leader: Christians, what do you believe concerning Jesus Christ?

All: We believe Jesus Christ is the eternal Word made flesh. He is the long-awaited Savior: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. He is fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Spirit of God and born of the virgin Mary, sent by God to reconcile the world to himself. To him be all glory and honor, for ever and ever.

Call to confession

based on Daniel 9

Leader: O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws.

All: Now, our God, hear our prayers. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive!

Silent prayers of confession

Choral prayer

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Chancel Choir

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

text by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413 and Henry Baker, 1859; music is Plainsong, 12th century, arr. Charles Douglas, 1916, DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Assurance of God's pardoning grace

based on John 3 and Colossians 1

Leader: God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

All: We joyfully give thanks to the Father, for he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

* Hymn of assurance 196, vv. 1, 3, 4

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

text by Charles Wesley, 1744 and Mark E. Hunt, 1978; music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855, HYFRYDOL

Worship in the giving of God's tithe and our offerings

Offertory

"Christ Is Nigh"

Chancel Choir

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding; "Christ is nigh," it seems to say,
"cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."
Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, our Sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

So when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.
Honor, glory, might, and blessing, be to God: the Father, Son,
and the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run.

Kings and monarchs bow before him, myrrh and gold and incense bring;
for all nations shall adore him, laud and praise, their offering.
Unto him shall prayer unceasing, with our daily vows ascend;
his great Kingdom still increasing, Kingdom that shall have no end.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heav'n;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing be to God: the Father, Son,
and the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run.

text from 6th century Latin, trans. by Edward Caswall; Old Scottish Tune, arr. Mark Schweizer, 2010

* **Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

* **Prayer of dedication and thanksgiving**

* **Scripture reading from Hebrews 1:1-3a**

Frank Hitchings

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"Jesus, the Exact Representation"
Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

1. **God speaks:** the anticipated Word of God in the last days (vv. 1-2a)
2. **God authoritatively speaks in his Son:** the identity of the living Word (vv. 2b-3a)
 - Jesus is the beloved Son and appointed heir.
 - Jesus is the mighty creator and powerful sustainer.

3. God clearly speaks in his Son: the message of the living Word (v. 3a)

- Jesus is the radiant glory and exact representation.

Pastoral prayer

* **Hymn of response 170**, vv. 1, 4

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and for evermore be thine.

text from Münster Gesangbuch, 1677; Silesian folk song, CRUSADER’S HYMN

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

* **Postlude**

“Sleepers, Wake!”
arr. Robert J. Powell

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – director

Joshua Knight – organ

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

In the mid-19th century, German theologian Johann Hinrich Wichern was the first to weave evergreen boughs into a wagon wheel adorned with candles as a way for children to count the days until Christmas. Since that time, Advent wreaths have grown in meaning and use as a devotional and liturgical tool for Christians to celebrate Advent. The Advent wreaths we are using at LMPC are full of symbolic meaning: the circular shape reminds us of God’s never-ending love; the evergreen branches point to God’s promise of eternal life through his Son; the red holly berries signify Jesus’ blood shed on the cross; and the candles of hope, peace, joy, love, and Christ himself remind us of the true Light of the World, whom the darkness can never overcome.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS OF LMPC invite you to a short presentation of "Welcome to Advent!" on Wednesday, November 30 at 5:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Start your Advent season off right with the beautiful sound of children's voices. Following the program, join us for Family Night, including pizza and bingo in the fellowship hall; no reservations required but regular dinner fees apply.

ALL WOMEN OF LMPC ARE INVITED to celebrate the Christmas season together at Canopy on Tuesday, December 6 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Snacks provided and drinks available for purchase.

BRING IN YOUR DONATIONS for the Vision of Mercy collection to the Small Conference Room before Wednesday, December 7. If you donate an essential kit, please include each of these items in a sealed Ziploc gallon bag: winter hat, gloves, soap, deodorant, washcloth, socks, toothpaste, toothbrush, disposable wipes, disposable razor. If you donate a blanket, please ensure it is at least 50x60 inches; new and gently used/clean blankets will be accepted. If you would like to volunteer with Vision of Mercy to distribute the kits and blankets to those in need on Saturday, December 10, please email Stephanie Young at stephanie@lmpc.org.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS to be placed in the sanctuary or fellowship hall in honor or in memory of a loved one, please visit Realm Connect to submit and contribute online, or contact the church office at 423-821-4528. The last day to make your request is Friday, December 9.

THE VIP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 13. Join us at 12:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for a delicious menu of chicken and dressing, roasted asparagus, cranberry-orange relish, and dessert. Make your reservation before December 9 on Realm Connect, or by calling the church office. The cost for this event is \$5. The VIPs are a group of mostly retired adults who meet monthly for fun and fellowship.

IF YOU, YOUR FAMILY, OR SMALL GROUP WOULD ENJOY CHRISTMAS CAROLING on December 18 for LMPC members who cannot join us for Christmas services, please register by emailing Margaret at margaret@lmpc.org by December 11.

To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit lmpc.org/news.

ADVENT 2022 SERMON SERIES

HEBREWS: WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Advent is all about waiting and longing for redemption. Hebrews is all about confirmation that Jesus is the One we have all been waiting on. As the hymn lyrics ask, "What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?" This child, Jesus, is the one who fulfills all of the longings built up through the prophets, temple, priesthood, and sacrificial system. Jesus is the exact representation of God and is everything God wants to say to us. Jesus is the new, final, and superior High Priest and Royal Son. Jesus is superior to the angels. All the longings of the covenant people of God find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. And though he has come, still we wait. We await his return when he will completely consummate the glory of his unshakable and eternal Kingdom on earth. Until then, let us wait with eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

ADVENT 2022

CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

Sunday, December 4

6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

nursery available

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 11

4:00 and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

nursery available at 4:00 p.m. only

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 18

5:00 p.m. in the community

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24

LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

3:00, 5:00, and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

nursery available at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. only